

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Official Action mailed June 21, 2005.

Requirement for Election of Species

The Office Action alleged that this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention.

Species I, claims 1-8, pertaining to a method including bombarding the wafer with a plasma to remove F and wherein the cathode stage is heated to a high temperature;

Species 2, claims 9-15, pertaining to a method including treating the IC with a plasma comprising a bombardment gas and heating the cathode stage comprises heating between 50-500 degrees C;

Species 3, claims 16-20, pertaining to a method including treating the IC with a reducing gas.

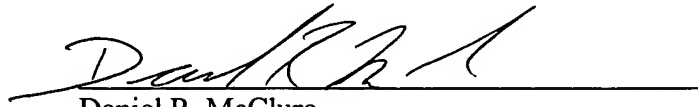
Applicants hereby elect Species I (claims 1-8) for continued prosecution. Applicants submit, however, that claim 1 is generic to all three species, and if claim 1 is allowed in its current form, then all claims should be examined.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request submit that the foregoing is fully responsive to the election request and that all presently-pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel R. McClure', is written over a horizontal line.

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